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LETTER DATED 26 OCTOBER 1994 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF AUSTRIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Austria follows with great interest recent and ongoing discussions and initiatives aimed at enhancing transparency in the work of the Security Council through stronger interaction and cooperation between the Council and the membership of the United Nations at large, thus increasing confidence in, the efficiency of and not least support for the Security Council's manifold tasks.

More transparency, in our view, seems to be of essential importance, particularly in the field of peace-keeping operations, a field in which, in both political and practical terms, the role played by Member States is absolutely vital. To ensure the necessary commitment of Member States and for that reason public support for both ongoing and possible new operations - especially in the light of the growing number of operations in recent years paired with growing constraints in eligible resources - more transparency through an intensified dialogue between the Secretariat, the Security Council and Member States, early access to as much information as possible and improved procedures for the provision of such information will be necessary.

Austria, as a country with a long-standing tradition in United Nations peace-keeping, therefore welcomes and strongly supports all efforts aimed at incorporating both actual and potential troop contributors in the exchange of information and consultation taking place prior to and during the deployment of an operation between the Secretariat and the Security Council. Austria thus attaches particular importance to the initiative launched by the Permanent Representatives of Argentina and New Zealand (S/1994/1063) regarding the improvement of procedures currently employed by the Security Council in its consideration of peace-keeping matters.

I should appreciate it if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ernst SUCHARIPA
Permanent Representative of Austria

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